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SELECTIONS FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE OF
COLONEL CLEMENT BIDDLE.

The "Washington Correspondence with Clement Biddle," 2 vols. folio, a gift of the late Mrs. Chapman Biddle to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, contain sixty-four letters of Washington, four of Mrs. Washington; fifty-four of Tobias Lear and seven of George A. Washington, his secretaries. There are also letters from Generals Greene, Knox, Schuyler, Mifflin; Colonels Hamilton, Tilghman, Pickering, Laurens, Burr; Major William Jackson, James Monroe; eleven drafts of letters of Col. Biddle, and others. The correspondence we print, refers mainly to domestic affairs.

Clement Biddle, second son of John and Sarah (Owen) Biddle, was born in Philadelphia, May 10, 1740. He engaged in the shipping and importing business with his father and brother Owen, which continued until the outbreak of the Revolution, when both he and his brother, became active participants in the service of their country. Clement Biddle's military life began when he joined a Quaker company organized to protect the Indians at the Barracks, in Philadelphia, from the "Paxton Boys." After the Revolutionary war broke out, he became an officer in a volunteer company of light infantry, known as the "Quaker Blues." On July 8, 1776, he was appointed by Congress Deputy Quartermaster General, with the rank of Colonel, for the "Flying Camp," composed of the militia from Pennsylvania and New Jersey; three months later Gen. Greene appointed him a volunteer aid-de-camp on his staff, and during November was stationed at Fort Lee, on the Hudson. July 1, 1777, he was appointed Commissary

General of Forage and served to June, 1780. Col. Biddle was present at the battles of Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine, Germantown and Monmouth, and shared with his wife in the sufferings of the army at Valley Forge. They were quartered in "Moore Hall." Before he reached the camp he had been ordered to Bethlehem to inspect the heavy baggage of the army parked there for security, prior to the battle of the Brandywine. September 11, 1781, he was appointed Quartermaster General of Pennsylvania, and filled the office for many years. He also held the office of Notary Public and President Washington appointed him United States Marshal for Pennsylvania. He was appointed in 1788 Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia county and served until 1788, when he was raised to the bench. He was twice married: first to Mary, daughter of Francis Richardson, of Chester, Penna., who died in 1773; second, Rebekah Cornell, daughter of Hon. Gideon Cornell, of Rhode Island, died 1831, and left descendants. Col. Biddle died July 14, 1814.

Gen. Washington to Gen. Greene.

Sir,

The good People of the State of Pennsylvania living in the vicinity of Philadelphia & near the Delaware River having suffered much by the Enemy carrying off their property without allowing them any Compensation, thereby distressing the Inhabitants supplying their own Army & enabling them to protract the cruel & unjust war that they are now waging against these States— And whereas by recent intelligence I have reason to expect that they intend making another grand Forage into this Country, it is of the utmost Consequence that the Horses Cattle Sheep and Provender within Fifteen or Twenty Miles west of the River Delaware between the Schuylkill and the Brandywine be

immediately removed, to prevent the Enemy from receiving any benefit therefrom, as well as to supply the present Emergencies of the American Army——

I do therefore authorise impower & Command you forthwith to take carry off & secure all such Horses as are suitable for Cavalry or for Draft & all Cattle & Sheep fit for slaughter together with every kind of Forage that may be found in possession of any of the Inhabitants within the Aforesaid limits Causing Certificates to be given to each person for the number Value & quantity of the Horses Cattle Sheep & Provender so taken——

Informing them that notice will be given to the holders of such Certificates by the Commissary & Quarter-Master General when & where they may Apply for Payment that they may not be disappointed in calling for their money——

All Officers *civil* and *military*, Commissaries Quarter-Masters, &c., are hereby Ordered to obey and assist you in this necessary business——

All the Provinder on the Islands between Philadelphia and Chester which may be difficult of Access or too hazardous to attemp [sic] carrying off, you will immediately Cause to be destroyed, giving Directions to the officer or officers to whom this Duty is assigned, to take an account of the Quantity together with the Owners Names, as far as the nature of the Service will admit.—

Given under my hand at head-Quarters this 12th. day of Feb^y. 1778.

G. Washington.

Gen. Greene to Col. Biddle.

Colonel Biddle Commissary General of Forage is hereby directed to issue the necessary warrants & In-

structions for the execution of this Service & to superintend the Commissaries & Quarter Masters

Nath Greene M. G—

Moorhall

12 Feb 1778

Col. Biddle to Gen. Anthony Wayne.

Dear General

Moorhall 25 Febr^y. 1778.

I proposed this morning to his Excellency the General to send Mr. Anderson A. D. Q. M. G. of a Brigade to assist in Collecting waggons Horses & Forage under your Directions as you passed through the County of Bucks also Captains Henderson & Humfrey who are well acquainted with the Country & may on that Account be useful in executing such Orders as you may give on the Occasion.—

Mr Anderson has given some hints that he can find out the persons who gave information of & were instigators of those who took our people clothing &c at New town & in Bucks & Philadelphia Counties—if on examination any discoveries can be made his Excellency desires you will secure the persons who have been guilty of the Offences charged against them—

Yesterday the Enemy took near 130 Cattle at Bartholomew's Tavern & were out with their light horse til [sic] late in the Day on the Swedesford or ridgeroad—some musquetry heard in the night was supposed to be from Col^o Guest who had passed the Sschuylkil with a party yesterday—

I am D^r. General

Y^r. mo: obed. & very h^o. Serv

Clement Biddle

C. G. F.

Washington to Col. Biddle.

Dear Sir,

Mount Vernon 8th. Jan 1784.

Be so good as to send me by the Post, or any other safe & expeditious conveyance, 70 yards of livery lace

three quarters, or Inch wide; or any width between—
Direct it to the care of the Postmaster in Alexandria.
The lace should be red & white.—

I will thank you also for sending me, if an opportunity should offer soon by water, one hundred weight or even a Barrel of good Coffee.— Pray forr^d. the acc. between us that I may discharge the Bal^e. if it is against me.— My Compliments in which M^{rs}. Washington joins are offered to M^{rs}. Biddle & M^{rs}. Shaw.

I am—D^r Sir

Y^r. Most obed^t Serv^t.

G^o. Washington

Clem^t Biddle Esq^r.

Washington to Col. Biddle.

Mount Vernon 17th Jan^y 1784.

Dear Sir

On the 8th. I wrote to you for 70 yards of livery lace (red and white, $\frac{3}{4}$ or Inch wide, or any width between) to be sent by the Post; or any other safe & expeditious conveyance.— Lest that letter should have miscarried I repeat my request, as I am in immediate want of the article. I did, at the same time desire that one hund^d. weight, or a Barr^l. of good Coffee might be sent me by the first Vessel bound for the Port of Alexandria

I pray you now, my good Sir, to send me as soon as a conveyance offers, four brass wired sieves, of the common size in the rim, but exactly one eighth, one sixteenth, and one thirtieth of an Inch in the meshes.— the fourth to be finer than the last mentioned— I want these to prepare materials to compose a Cement of which I propose to make some experiments.—exactness therefore in the different sizes is required of the maker of them

I have seen rooms with gilded borders made I believe of Papier Maché fastened on with Brads or Cement round the Doors & window Casings, surbase &c^a.; and

which gives a plain blew, or green paper a rich & handsome look. Is there any to be had in Philadelp^a.?— and at what price?— Is there any plain blew & green Paper to be had also?—the price by (y^e. y^d. & width)
with great regard—I am

Dr. Sir

Y^r. most Obed^t. Serv^t.

Clem Biddle Esq^r.

G^o. Washington

Washington to Col. Biddle.

Mount Vernon, Feb. 5th 1784

Dear Sir,

On the 8th of last month I wrote to you for 70 yards of Livery Lace of which I was in immediate want and suggested to have it sent by the Post to Alexandria— As there is some reason to believe the Post has not gone *through* yet, I beg leave to repeat my want of it & pray it may be sent as soon as possible

The lace should be red & white, Inch or $\frac{3}{4}$ of an Inch wide or anywhere between.

I would now thank you for sending me a two pole chain exact in its length and not too small or weak in the links—this I wish to receive soon too,

The things you were to send by water did not arrive before the Frost set in & I have heard nothing of them since,

I am with esteem & regard

Dr Sir

[Sample of Livery Lace]

Y^r most obed, Serv^t

G^o. Washington

Clement Biddle

Washington to Col. Biddle.

Phil^a. May 6th. 1784

Dear Sir

You will do me a fav^r. by executing the inclosed mem^{ms}.—

The reason why I had rather the wine (had of the Chev^r. de la Luzerne) should be paid for by a third person, shall be given to you when I see you.

To send the articles wanted by the first Vessel bound to Alexandria would be very convenient, & you w^d. do me a kindness to agree for and express what the freight shall be.— I have suffered great imposition, by the charges of some skippers, rather than enter into a controversy, or dispute their acct^s. I send you enclosed 250 dollars to pay the Char^s. & for the things now desired—If Burgundy & Champaign is to be had *now*, as cheap as I am told it sold a while ago—or any other *good* wine of that sort *very* cheap, I should be glad to get and send some round.—but your previous information may be best.

If I could see a small slipe of the plain blew & green paper—with a sample of the paupie [sic]-Maché and gilded borders, I should be glad of it.—In a hurry

I am y^r. ob^t. & aff^o. Serv^t.

G^o. Washington

My Letter to the Chev^r.

is left open for your

perusal—please to seal

it before delivery—which I wish may be soon.

Washington to Col. Biddle.

May 7th 1784.

Dear Sir,

As the opportunity to Potomack will be good, I return the Box you sent me the other day, in order that it may go by the Ship Fortune with the other things—as my purchase of any of the sorts of wine (enumerated in my letter of yesterday) will depend upon the price, which *sometime ago* I heard was *incredibly low*, you would oblige me, if you know the rates they are at present, by the information— I have heard the same acc^t. given of other articles—broad cloths particularly, of

which I would take a piece of my livery color if it c^d.
be had at the prices it has sold [torn]

Upon second thoughts a doz. a [torn] half of Windsor
chairs will be suffic^t. [torn] think my Mem^m. requested
two doz^s.) but [torn] should be glad to have Almonds
& other Nuts and a Box or two of Spirmeceti Candles
sent

I am D^r Sir

Y^r. affect. Serv^t.

G^o. Washington.

Col Biddle

Washington to Col. Biddle.

Tuesday Morning 18th

May 1784

Dear Sir,

Rather than wait, & thereby hazard delay, I would
purchase Copper at the present price for all the pur-
poses mentioned in your estimate, the Spouts, or
Trunks excepted the want of these, as they do not
retard the work, may remain a while longer

Pray let me have your Acc^t. before Nine o'clock, as
I hope to set off soon after that hour & wish to pay the
Ball^e. before I go.—

I am

Y^r. Obed^t. & aff Serv^t

G^o. Washington.

PS.—As you

forgot to put up the

Bill for the Nuts I do not

Know sorts you have sent.—

Washington to Col. Biddle.

Mount Vernon June 30th. 1784

Dear Sir,

Your favor of the 10th Inst^t. covering an Invoice of
Goods shipped by the Betsey Captⁿ. Breadhurst is come
safe to hand—the vessel is also arrived at Alexandria;
and I shall send up this day for the things—I wish the

318 *Correspondence of Colonel Clement Biddle.*

Mattresses had *all* been among them as the Season is wasting fast in which they are most useful

I have perused the acct^s. you have delivered in at Sundry times and find the debits & credits to stand thus.— If they are not all brought to view you will please to note it, and rectify the mistake

1783		
July 23.	Ticklesburgh & Blank .	
	p Bill	£204-13-0
	Paid Carriage of Do.	3-15-
Oct ^r .	Sundries p Bills.	201-19-7
	Stays M ^{rs} . L Washington	3-15-
	Commis ⁿ . 2½ p C ^t	10. 7 —
		£424- 9-7
Dec ^r . 19	Bringhurst Wheels &c ^a	15- 2 —
March.	Coffee, Sieves & Lace. . . .	14-12-6
May.	Chev ^r . de la Luzerne.	30— —
	Sundries p ^r . Cap. Haydes	44- 7-4½
	Insig. Goods p the Bet	
	sey Breadhurst.	50-18-7
		£579-10-0½
1783.		
	Cash in Bank Notes.	£300—
Dec ^r . 11	Ditto—400 Dol ^s	150
1784		£450—
May 5.	Cash sent you in a letter	
	to pay the Chev ^r . de la	
	Luzerne &c ^a . 250 doll ^s . . .	93-15-0
	Ball ^e due C. B.	35-15-0½
		£579-10-0½

Tomorrow, in the hands of some person in Alexandria, I will deposit for the use of M^r. Richardson one hundred and fifty dollars on your Acct.—and I pray

you to pay Mr. Claypoole agreeably to the contents of my letter to him w^{ch}. is under cover with this, and left open for your perusal—as also the German Printer if he ever inserted the advertisement respecting my western Lands, and for the one now enclosed for *him*, to be done in the manner requested of Mr Claypoole.— Whatever these Sums, with the price of the mattresses, may overrun the deposit I am about to make for Mr. Richardson I will pay to you, on your order upon demand.—

As the Price of the Hinges appears to me to be very high, and I am not in immediate want of them (having been disappointed of workmen) I will postpone for the *present* employing the man Mr. Rakestraw has found.— If I should hereafter be under the necessity of giving such prices I will attend to the direction in your letter; for which I am obliged, both to you & Mr. Rakestraw.

I recollect, sometime in the course of last year to have begged you to purchase for me from the redemptioners or Indented (Germans or Irish) a House joiner and Bricklayer.— Many I have seen advertised for sale in Philadelphia of late—should this happen again I would pray your attention to my former request— It might be well to have them examined by skilful workmen, for many will call themselves Bricklayers who have only been Mortar makers—and others joiners who Know little of the Trade—I would prefer elderly men to very young ones, if there is choice—and their being sent by water (round) to any other conveyance—. The Cost and expense of these if you should make a purchase shall be paid as soon as it is made Known So

D^r. Sir

Y^r. most obed^t Serv^t.

G^o. Washington.

PS.

I shall be obliged to you for sending me 70 yds. of gilded Border for papered Rooms (of the kind you

showed me when I was in Philadelp^a)—That which is most light and airy I should prefer—I do not [sic] whether it is usual to fasten it on with Brads or Glew—if the former I must beg that as many may be sent as will answer the purpose.

G. W.

Clement Biddle Esq^r.

Washington to Col. Biddle.

Mount Vernon Nov. 3rd 1784

Dear Sir

I have not yet received a statement of my Acc^t. with you. It would give me pleasure to have it at full length—and soon.

I wish you would add to it 100 lbs of fresh & good (red) clover seed, to be sent by the first vessel to Alexandria, as I should be glad to receive it before Ice may impede the navigation of this or the Delaware river.

I requested the favor of M^r Boudinot (late president of Congress) [omitted] to send me from New Jersey as much of the Orchard grass seed as would sow ten acres; and if no opportunity should offer from New York immediately to Alexandria to address it to your care, should the latter be the case I pray you to forward it by the first conveyance after its arrival.

Last spring you were unable to get me English grass seed, but if it is to be had now, it would be very convenient for me to receive as much as would sow five acres (say 50 lbs.) The grass I mean has different names, which may be the reason of your unsuccessful enquiries before— By some it is called English Grass, by others Goose Grass, by others spear grass, but the kind I want is that which affords the best turf for walks and lawns, and is the purpose for which I want it, Could these seeds be had from a Farmer, or of the growth of the country there would be more certainty of its coming up.— Imported seeds even [sic] (when no pranks are

played with them) often get heated in the ship and vegetation thereby destroyed;

At what prices pray could good Ticklenburg, be had in Philadelphia, Nails, Paints, and in short course goods are goods in general cheap or dear with you.

I am D^r. Sir

Y^r most obed^t. Serv^t.

G. Washington

Clement Biddle Esq^{re}
Philadelphia

Washington to Aneas Lamont.

Mount Vernon Jan^y 31st 1785

Sir,

The interruption of the Post by the frost, withheld your letter of the 31st ult^o. from me until within a few days.

The liberty you have taken in dedicating your Poetical Works to me, does me honor— The conditions upon which you offer them to the Public are generous— evincive of their purity and conscious worth.— I shall with pleasure therefore take a few copies of the bound and lettered Books, when they are ready for delivery.

It behooves me to correct a mistake in your printed address, “To the patrons of the fine arts.” I am no Marshall of France—nor do I hold any Commission, or fill any office under that Government—or any other whatever. I am—Sir

Y^r. most obed^t. H^{ble} Serv^t

G^o. Washington

Mr Aneas Lamont

G. A. Washington to Col. Biddle.

Mount Vernon Sep^r. 27th. 1785

My Dear Sir

I am desirous of procuring a Carriage and know not where to apply with so good a prospect of procuring

one to my satisfaction as in Philadelphia, and your polite attention induces me to take the liberty of requesting the favor of you to make inquiry and inform me by the first conveyance.— I would wish a neat light and roomy Pheyton with brass boxes a large apron and curtains to draw before to make it secure against the weather and a glass behind with a p^r. of Harness—such a wone [sic] can be got in New York at 250 or 60 Doll^s. I therefore presume that work may be done on as moderate terms in Philadelphia.— G. Way & Hunter have the reputation of the best workmen if you think so shall thank you to inform me by the first conveyance their lowest terms and time it could be finished.— My respects to M^{rs}. Biddle and family and Compliments to all acq^{ts}. and believe me to be

My D^r Sir

Your friend

& Hum. Ser.

George A. Washington

Col^o. Biddle.

Washington to Col. Biddle.

Mount Vernon Sep^r. 7th. 1785

Dear Sir,

The man who at present lives with me in the capacity of a Housekeeper, or Household Steward, will leave me in a day or two; which (until his place can be supplied) will throw a great additional weight on M^{rs}. Washington.— I therefore beg, if you or M^r. Moyston should have met with a person whom you think would answer my purposes (as described in my former letters) that you would engage him (or her) absolutely, instead of conditionally, and send him on the Stage.— In the meanwhile, if one should offer to my liking here, my engagement shall be conditional.— No disappointment. therefore can happen to the person engaged by you.—

Inclosed is a letter to M^r Frauncis (al^s. black Sam)

late of New York, now of some place in the Jerseys—I leave it open for your perusal, to be forwarded, or destroyed as circumstances may require.

—If you should have succeeded at Philadelphia, or are in the way of doing so, the latter will take place, if not, the sooner it can be got to his hands, the better. My best respects, in which M^{rs}. Washington joins, are offered to M^{rs}. Biddle.

I am—D^r Sir
Y^r. most Obed^t. &
very H^{ble}. Serv^t.
G^o. Washington.

Clem^t. Biddle Esq^r.

Washington to Col. Biddle.

Mount Vernon 17th Aug^t. 1785.

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 8th came safely by last Post—I will, the first time I go to Alexandria, get an order from Col^o Hooe M^r. Hartshorne, or some other who has dealings in Philadelphia (for I have none, & know of no direct and safe opportunity of sending Money) to the amount of the sum which you have lately paid on my Acct. to M^r. Boudinot

The inclosed is to Edward (I do not know his Sir-name) who formerly lived with M^r. R. Morris but now, I am informed, keeps the City Tavern, to see if he can be instrumental in procuring me a Housekeeper.— I beg you to be so obliging as to direct, deliver, and consult him on the contents of the letter, which is left open for your perusal, & return me an ans^r. as soon as possible.

The man who at present lives with me in the capacity of a Housekeeper (and is a very good one) is bound for the port of Matrimony, and will, after 4 or 5 Weeks which he has agreed to stay, leave me in a very disagreeable Situation if I cannot get supplied in the

meanwhile.— I give him £25 this Curr^y p^r. Ann. & a suit of Clothes which cann^t. be less than seven pounds more.—these with the difference of Exchange will be equal to ab^t. £40 per y^r. Cur^y.— This sum I am willing to give to man or woman (the former I would prefer) of good character & really knowing and competent to my purposes.—

I have seen an Advertisement in some of the Philadelphia Papers of an Office for this kind of business, but however good it may be as a *channel* for *inquiry* I would not depend upon it without other testimonials respecting the character & abilities of an applicant for the final adoption.— M^{rs}. Washington joins me in best wishes for yourself, and M^{rs}. Biddle & family.

I am D^r. Sir

Y^r. most obed^t. H^{ble}. Serv^t.

G^o. Washington

PS.

Since writing the foregoing, I have met with and now enclose you, a bank note for 30 dollars; which please to receive, and carry to my crēdit.

Y^r. &. G. W.

Washington to Col. Biddle.

Mount Vernon 2^d. Feb. 85

Dear Sir

The Writer of the inclosed letter, in person & character, is entirely unknown to me.— I have been at a loss therefore to determine what notice to take of it.— At length I concluded to write the answer which is also enclosed; and to request the favor of you to send it to him, or return it to me, as you should just [sic] best from the result of your enquiries; or from your own knowledge of the author, or his Work.

If he is a man of decent deportment, and his produc-

tions deserving encouragement, I am very willing to lend him any aid he can derive from the proposed dedication, if he conceives a benefit— His letter & proposals you will please to return me.—& seal the letter to him, if it is forwarded to the address

I am D^r Sir

Y^r most obed^t Serv^t

G^o. Washington

[Note by Col. Biddle]

March 7 Answered

I could not obtain such Information respecting the Author of the Poems as to induce me to deliver your Letter but will make further Enquiry on that subject.

Washington to Col. Biddle.

Mount Vernon 1st Feb^y. 1785.

Dear Sir,

In a letter of the 14th of Dec^r. from M^r. Boudinot (which only came to my hands by the last Post) he informs me that he should send Six Bush^{ls} of the Orchard grass Seeds to your care, for my use.— If this has been done, I pray you not to forego the first opportunity of forwarding it to me, as it ought to be sowed as soon as the ground can be prepared which I am now getting in order for its reception.

I do not know how to account for it, but so the fact is, that altho' I am a Subscriber to Mess^{rs}. Dunlaps & Claypoole's Packet & daily Advertiser, I do not get one paper in five of them—was I to say one in ten, I should be nearer the mark.— Once I wrote to M^r. Claypoole on this subject, but he never vouchsafed to give me an answer, and since I have been worse served.— If I recollect right; this letter was accompanied with one to you requesting payment of my subscription; lest a tardiness in this respect, on my part, might occasion the omissions on his.— I now ask the same favor of you, and pray also that you would be so obliging [sic]

as to enquire into and let me know the cause of my disappointments.—which I have regretted the more, since their publication of Cook's voyages; having never been able to get a board and lettered Sett of them.—

Be it remembered that, if the fulfilment of these requests of mine, places you in advance for me, it is because I cannot get a Statement of the acc^t. between us, that I may know how the Ball^e. stands.— You talked of coming to Virginia, and I assure you I should be very glad to see you—but it seems as if it would end in talk.—

I have received a Cask of clover Seeds & a box with a cast [sic] (from M^r Wright) unaccompanied by a letter or Invoice.— I do not know therefore whether to expect the English grass seeds of which you gave me hopes, or not.

—We have heard of M^{rs}. Shaws Marriage, on which occasion please to offer her mine and M^{rs}. Washington's compliments of congratulation at the same time present our best wishes for M^{rs}. Biddle and your family.—

I am—Dear Sir

Y^r. most obed^t. H^ble. Serv^t.

G^o. Washington.

P.S.

Be so good as
to let the enclosed go
safe to Mess^{rs}. Lewis's.—

it is to request them to provide me a *good* Miller of which I am much in want.—and in the doing of which, if you could contribute, it would render me an essential Service.—

G. W.

Since writing the foregoing, I have recollected a matter of business which I intended when you came here to have asked the favor of you to negotiate for me.— I now enclose it, & would thank you for getting it settled if it can be done, at the proper office in Philadelphia.— The endorsements upon the cover of the Papers (which was made at the time they were put into

my hands) contain all the light I can throw upon the business.— I pray you to take care of it with the rest of the Papers and let me have it again with whatever settlement is made, or decision is come to; as I have no copy or other Mem^m. by which I can settle an acc^t. with Gilbert Simpson, or John Johns relative to this matter.—

I am as above—

Clement Biddle Esq^r.

G. Washington.

Washington to Col. Biddle.

Mount Vernon 11th Dec^r. 1785

Dear Sir,

I have received your favor of the 29th ult^o. and thank you for your repeated offer of Services in Philadelphia.— By Major Fairlie I send you Six pounds Pennsylvania [sic] Curr^y. and would thank you to pay M^r Cary Printer for his Paper—and to pay Oswald for his—I know not upon what footing he sends them—by no order of mine do they come, and it is only now and then, I get one.— Yet I do not want to lay under any obligation to him—Claypoole & Dunlaps Papers now come regularly & I could wish they were also paid.

For what can sheet copper be bought in Phil^a. at this time? I believe I shall have occasion to add to the quantity which was sent me from there last year, to complete my building.

M^{rs}. [sic] join me in every good wish for you, M^{rs}. Biddle & family—with great esteem I am Dear Sir—

Y^r obd^t. & affect^e H^{ble} Serv^t

G^o. Washington.

Washington to Col. Biddle.

Mount Vernon Jan^y. 30th. 1786

Dear Sir,

I embrace the good & safe opportunity afforded me by Col^o Grayson to send you Ten half Johan^s.—the ap-

plication of which shall be the subject of a Letter by the Post, when I have more leizure to write—not being able to mention the purposes for which they are intended at this time— With much truth I am D^r Sir

Y^r. Obed^t. H^{ble} Serv^t

G^o Washington

Washington to Col. Biddle.

Mount Vernon Feb: 10th. 1786

Dear Sir,

A hasty letter which I wrote to you by Col^o. Grayson, was accompanied with ten half Johan^s—the application of which I informed you sh^d. be directed in a subsequent letter.—

Let me now request the favour of you to send me the following articles if to be had.

A pair of Boots, and two pair of Shoes, to be made by M^r. Star (who has my measure) agreeably to the enclosed Mem^o.—

Young's Six Months tour through England (his tour thro' Irel^d. I have).

The Gentleman Farmer by Henry Home.

Tulls Husbandry.—All to be neatly bound & lettered.

200 weight of clover seed—to be fresh and good.—

12 lbs of Saint foin seed } if to be had

6 lbs of the field Burnet } good.

A Common Hunting horn of the largest and best sort.

It will readily occur to you, my good Sir, that these Seeds (as they are to be sown this spring) cannot be forwarded too soon.— I ought indeed to have wrote for them at an earlier period, but they may yet arrive at a proper Season if they are quickly dispatched.— At any rate, inform me if they are to be had, & the prospect there is of forwarding them, for thereon will depend my preparation of the ground.—

The Gazettes which were furnished by M^r. Dunlap

for my use, during my Military appointment, ought undoubtedly to be paid for by the public—and I had no doubt but that this had been done, regularly, by the Q^r. M^r. General or his assist^t. in the State of Pennsylvania [sic]— If the case is otherwise, I am ready to give my aid towards his obtaining it

My respects to M^{rs}. Biddle

I am—Dear Sir

Y^r. Most obed^t. H^{ble} Ser

G^o. Washington.

I pray you to

be positive with resp^t.

to the goodness of the Seeds:

an imposition of bad seed

is a robbery of the worst kind;

for your pocket not only

suffers by it but your preparations

are lost—and a season passes away unimproved.

Washington to Col. Biddle.

Mount Vernon May 18th. 1786

Dear Sir,

Your favors of the 19th. of Feb^y. & 16th. & 19th March are before me; & would have been acknowledged Sooner, had anything Material occurred.—

The Clover Seed, Boots &c came in Season, but I must take care to be earlier in my application another year, as the expence of getting heavy Articles from Baltimore by Land comes high. I was charged forty odd Shillings for the Transportation of those Seeds by the Stage from that place.— I am nevertheless much obliged to you, for forwarding of them, in that manner; as the delay would have rendered the Seeds useless for Spring Sowing & altogether defective perhaps by the Fall.— I am obliged to your good Father, for the Trouble he was at in Choosing them, they are very good, pray you to offer my Comp^{ts}. and Thanks to him therefore; & to Cap^t. Morris for his kind present

of a Hunting Horn, as I was unable to get one in Virginia, or at Baltimore.

If you Should not have purchased Youngs Tour through Great Britain, before this reaches you, be pleased to decline doing it, as I have Just received a very Polite letter from that Gentleman, informing me of his having dispatched a Compleat Sett of his Works, for my acceptance.—

The person in whose Name the Inclosed Certificate has issued, is owing me a Considerable Sum, (indeed half the Flour & Meal, for which the Certificate was granted belonged to me) & having requested that it may be sold for what it will fetch, & his part of the Money applied to my Credit, I pray you to do it accordingly,—but at the Same time, I must desire, as halfe the property is my own, that if it Shall appear to you, to be for my Interest, that it Should be Bought in again, on my Acco^t. that you would do so. In either case, place the Amo^t. to my Credit, in your Books, Subject to a future disposition.—

I must be owing Mess^{rs}. Rob^t. Lewis & Sons (of Phil^a.) some trifle on Acco^t. of a Miller, which they procured for me last year, but have never yet been able to get their Acco^t.— Be so good as to know, what the Amo^t. is, & pay it, the Inclosed informs them thereof;—

I have Such a number of Gazettes, crowded upon me (many without orders) that they are not only expensive, but realy [sic] useless; as my other avocations will not afford me time to read them oftentimes, and when I do attempt it, find them more troublesome, than profitable; I have therefore to beg, If you Should get Money into your hands on Acco^t. of the Inclosed Certificate, that you would be so good as to pay what I am owing to Mess^{rs}. Dunlap & Claypoole,—M^r. Oswald— & M^r. Humphreys— If they consider me however as engaged for the year, I am Content to let the matter run on to the Expiration of it; but as my Expenses run

high, it would be imprudent in me, to increase them unnecessarily.—

I am in want of Glass (for a particular purpose) & beg you would Send it to me, by the first opp^y. agreeably to the Inclosed pattern, & Quantities.—

Is linnen to be had Cheap at the Vendue in Philadelphia, for Ready Money?—& at what price could the Best dutch 00 Stripp^d. duffl'd Blanketts, be bought by the piece of 15 or 16 in each, which I think is the usual number? I may want 200 of them. My Comp^{ts}. in which M^{rs}. Washington Joins, are off^{er}ed to M^{rs}. Biddle, & I am

Dear Sir

Your Obed^t. Hble Serv.

Col^o Biddle

G^o. Washington.

Washington to Col. Biddle.

Mount Vernon May 22nd. 1786

Dear Sir

The inclosed was committed [sic] to my care by a Friend with a request that it might be forwarded to Philadelphia to obtain a conveyance to Jamaica as none could be had here. I will therefore beg the favor of you to send it by the first opportunity as it is a Letter of consequence—I beg my Complimente to M^{rs}. Biddle—and am

Dear Sir

with much esteem

Your Ob^t. Hum: Ser^t.

Geo: Washington.

Washington to Col. Biddle.

Mount Vernon March 14th. 1787

Dear Sir,

Your letters of the 20th. and 27th. Ult^o. are both before me.—The Barley & other things by the Dolphin are arrived—and by the return of this Vessel I consign you,

as per bill enclosed, "5 Barr^{is}. of Herrings, which you will be pleased to dispose of to the best advantage, and place the proceeds to my credit. It is hardly necessary to add that, the sooner these fish are disposed of the higher the sale of them probably will be, as the season for the new is near at hand.—They are very good, I am told, having been lately examined.—

As I beleive the half yearly interest of my Certificate is nearly due, and a small balance was in my favor previous to the purchasing the Articles by the Dolphin, I will wait for the Sale of the Fish to know how the Acc^t. between us will then be—In the interim, please to send me one dozⁿ. of the best corn Scythes of a proper length, and strength at the heel, and in the leacks,—and the same number of the best grass Scythes—two strong bramble Scythes, and two flax spinning wheels.—The Dolpin returns to this port in the course of nexth month, and will afford a good Conveyance.—What does the best Hyson Tea and d^{ble}. refined Sugar sell at with you?—And how are linnens now? particularly those of the finer sort.—With great esteem

I am Dear Sir

Y^r. very H^{ble}. Serv^t.

G^o. Washington.

P.S. How does White
& red Lead, ground in oil
sell?—Are not these
things often bought cheap
at the public Vendues?—

G. W—n.

Washington to Colonel Biddle.

Dear Sir

By the Post of Yesterday, I received the enclosed Mem^o.—If you can comply with them in time for the Alexandria Packet it w^d. oblige me.—

If the Hatt is already got for Washington, it will be

unnecessary to exchange it;—If not, he prefers a black one, with such ornaments as would suit a boy of his age & the colour of the hat

I beg leave to remind you of the Linnen—two pieces—from Mr Hazlehursts;—and of the two pieces of finer than those you have purchased at 4/6.—For the purposes they are wanted indeed, they should be a good deal finer.—

I am—D^r. Sir

Y^r. Obed^t. Serv^t.

G^o Washington

Friday Morn^g.

28th. June 1787

Washington to Colonel Biddle.

Gen^l Washington's Compliments to Col^o. Biddle and would thank him for sending the upholsterer—Davis—to him as he is desirous of having one of the Venetian blinds made as soon as may be.

Thursday

July 12, 1787

Washington to Colonel Biddle.

August 7th. 1787

Dear Sir

In addition to the articles contained in the Mem^o. given to you some time since, I pray you to procure, and send by Capⁿ. Steward the following.—

A wimble bit compleat.

Pickled Walnuts }
& India Mangoes } none were sent before

Thompsons Seasons and Guthries Geography and the art of speaking.

Some pamphlets which have been sent to me since I came to Town; and Books purchased for my amusement whilst in it, I now send to be packed up, and sent round.—

The Top of the Cupulo (from Mr. Rakestraw)—The Venetian blind from Mr. Davis.—A hogshhead of Plaister

of Paris, & a coob with two or three fowls, from Mr. Barge;—and the Chair—I mean shall take the opportunity afforded by the Dolphin of going to Mount Vernon and I pray you to recommend them to the particular care of the Captⁿ.

I have bought one and mean to buy another, piece of fine linnen which I shall send to you.—

I am—Dear Sir

Y^r. Obed^t. Serv^t.

G^o. Washington.

Washington to Col. Biddle.

22^d Aug^t. 1787.

Dear Sir,

Since I came to this City, if I recollect rightly, you asked me if I now had, or could put up, a quantity of Herrings next season, for Sale.—

Having revolved the matter in my mind I wish in turn to be informed, if there is any responsible character who would enter into a contract for a number, to be delivered next season?—What number of Barr^{ls}. he would contract for?—and at what price; to be paid on delivery—or on a credit to be agreed on?—Answers to these questions would enable me to determine with respect to the propriety of entering into such a Contract; and in case of it, to prepare accordingly.—

Be so good as to inform me whether you have engaged the gudgeons for my Mill, or not, and when they will be ready? also with respect to the price of window glass 9 by 11. I shall want near 300 lights or squares—

I am—D^r S^r

Y^r. ob^t. Ser.

G Washington

Washington to Col. Biddle.

Dear Sir,

I have received both your Notes of this Morning, and thank you for Notice of the Vessels sailing.—The

Books, I perceive are only small treatises upon education, referred to by Doc^r. Rush, which I can get, & carry in my Trunk—Remember the clothes baskets.—I send a small box containing a Lamp—it is a present, but could not have cost 20/.—If the hounds presented to me by Capⁿ. Morris are not provided for, will it not be necessary to lay something in for them?—I think of nothing else at this time; therefore if you will let me know how the Acc^t. stands between us I would wish to square it.

Monday 10th Sept^r. 1787.

Washington to Col. Biddle.

Gen^l. Washington pres^{ts}. his Compliments to Col^o. Biddle and would be glad to know if the Vessel for Alexandria is gone. The lowest price the best dutch (striped) Blankets sell at by the piece.—and how his Acc^t. stands since the late purchases made by him as he has expectations that the business of the Convention will be brought to a close, or nearly so this day.—

Saturday Morn^g.

15th Sept

Washington to Col. Biddle.

Head of Elk 19th Sep^r 1787

Dear Sir,

Yesterday before I left the City, I wrote to Captⁿ. Morris requesting the favor of him to furnish me with a description of the hounds he was so good as to give me, that I might know how to apply the names contained in the list you sent me; for without, though I had eight names, I might not apply one right; Whether Captⁿ. Morris sent the description, or not, I will not say, but it did not come to my hands, and without it, I shall find myself at a loss.—I asked some other questions also; answers to which would be satisfactory, and I would thank you for obtaining, & forwarding them to me by

the first Post after this letter shall have reached you; my letter to him, will remind him of them, on your application.

I am Dear Sir
Y^r. Obed^t. & obliged Serv^t.
G^o. Washington

Washington to Col. Biddle.

Mount Vernon Dec^r. 3^d. 1787

Dear Sir

Your letters of the 23^d. of Sept^r. & 15th of Nov^r. came duly to hand.—You may inform M^r. Haines that my Barley, this year, shared the same fate with my other crops.—the drought during the summer was so excessive that I cannot form any just opinion of what it might produce in a seasonable year;—it yielded about 14 bush^{es}. to the acre which was a proportionate crop to any other kind of Grain which I sowed; and if I judge of its success from this circumstance it must be favourable.—This information I would have given you sooner had I been able to have ascertained the quantity of Barley that was made.

I have requested Thomas Smith Esq^r. of Carlyle, who, I expect, has or will recover some money which is due to me in the Western Country, to put it into your hands, unless he has an opportunity of forwarding it directly to Alexandria; if you shou^d receive it I will thank you to deposit it in the bank for me & send me the notes that I may negotiate them here as I have occasion for the Money

I enclose to you a letter to M^r. Smith which I will thank you to forward in as safe & expeditious a manner as you can.

As I imagine you have, by this time rec^d. the interest due on my warrant in your hands, or if you have not, M^r. Smith will, upon receiving the enclosed letter, forward some money to you, I must request you to pay

Mr. Charles Pettit's bill for 4 Backs & 8 Jambs sent to me, which amount to £18. 5s.

I will thank you to inform me the lowest prices for which good fresh Clover, Timothy & Orchard Grass seed can be purchased with you.

I am Dear Sir,
Y^r. Most Obed^t. H^{ble}. Serv^t.
G^o. Washington.

P.S. The Leopard skin sent by Captⁿ. Steward arrived safe.

Washington to Col. Biddle.

Dear Sir Mount Vernon January 24th. 1788

I wrote to you on the 3^d Ult^o. and as I have not received any answer to my letter of that date, I am led to suspect that it never reached your hands;—I therefore enclose you a duplicate of it.

My reason for requesting you to pay Mr. Pettit £18. 5s. (as mentioned in the enclosed duplicate) when I was not certain of your having money of mine in your hands to that amount, was in consequence of his informing me, in his letter, that you had offered to discharge it at the time the Backs & Jambs were shipped, but he then declined accepting it not knowing how far it might comport with my arrangements to do so; and I likewise expected that a sum of money would very shortly after my writing to you, have been lodged in your hands, on my account, by Thomas Smith Esq^r. If you have not paid the money to Mr. Pettit and should find the smallest inconvenience in so doing I wish you to inform me of it that I may convey it to him through some other channel.

I will thank you to forward the enclosed letter to General Butler by the first safe & direct conveyance, & am,

Dear Sir,
Y^r most Obed^t. H^{ble}. Serv^t.
G^o. Washington.

338 *Correspondence of Colonel Clement Biddle.*

Washington to Col. Biddle.

Mount Vernon March 3^d. 1788

Dear Sir

If this should reach you before the sailing of the vessel which you informed me in your last was bound to Alexandria, I must request you to put on board her, on my acc^t. two good linnen wheels, one dozⁿ. good strong wool Cards with strong teeth, and one hundred pounds of Clover seed in addition to the quantity which I have before desired you to get.

I am, Dear Sir,

Y^r. most obed^t. H^{ble}. Serv^t.

P.S.

G. Washington.

Pray send me as

soon as you conveniently

can 40 yards of Lace, of

the width & colour of the enclosed

—that or any other figure will

do.—

Col^o. Biddle

Washington to Col. Biddle.

Mount Vernon 5th. March 1788

Dear Sir,

In your letter of the 3^d. of February you mentioned Mess^{rs}. Dunlap & Claypoole having put into your hands one Vol. of their News Papers for the years 1785 & 86, which they desired might be forwarded to me and my acceptance thereof requested. I must now beg the favor of you to return them my best thanks for their politness, and at the same time, to inform them that I believe they misunderstood me in my application for their paper when I was in Philadelphia, for it was my intention to have taken it after my return home as well as in Philadelphia;—they will therefore, be so good as to forward them to me by every post, and at the end of each year I shall be glad to have a Vol. of them bound.—I have, hitherto taken the Pennsylvania Her-

ald, but, from some cause or other, it has been discontinued for a number of weeks past;—I will thank you to discharge whatever may be due on my account for that paper, and inform the printers, in decent terms, that it need not be sent on to me in future, as I conceive one will be sufficient to give all the information that is necessary.

I have rec^d. a Letter from Thomas Smith Esq^r. of the 5th ultimo, wherein he informs me that he has £200 in his hands for me, which he should forward to you by the first safe conveyance.—Whenever you receive it you will please to discharge the balance which may be due to you for articles purchased on my acc^t. since our last settlement, and forward the remainder to me in the manner mentioned in a former letter, reserving in your hands about £20. to pay for any articles I may have occasion to procure in Philadelphia

I must beg the favor of you forward the enclosed letters to their respective addresses by the first conveyance that may offer after you receive them.—I have, in the one to M^r. Peters, desired him to have a harrow made for me similar to one which I saw when I was at his house, with some spare teeth;—I will thank you to pay his bill for the same, and have them sent to me by the first vessel bound to Alexandria, after the one which I suppose is now about sailing for that place, provided they cannot be completed in time to be sent by her.

I am Dear Sir,
Y^r. most Obed^t. H^{ble}. Serv^t.
G^o. Washington.

Col^o Clement Biddle.

Washington to Col. Biddle.

Mount Vernon March 24th. 1788

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 16th. Ins^t. enclosing the Bill of Lading & Certificate of the Articles shipped on my Acc^t.

came duly to hand.—The Packet has not yet arrived unless she passed by here yesterday.

I thank you for your attention to the letters which I committed to your care. As I do not know whither you may have received the Interest due upon my Certificate in your hands, and some charges will now arise from the harrow furnished by M^r. Peters, and the livery lace, I enclose you a Bank Bill for forty Dollars which you will please to pass to my credit.—

I am, Dear Sir,
Y^r. most Obed^t. H^{ble}. Serv^t.
G^o. Washington

Clement Biddle Esq.

Washington to Col. Biddle.

Mount Vernon April 4th. 1788

Dear Sir,

The articles which you shipped on my Acc^t. on board of the Charming Polly have arrived safe & in good order.

As I am under the necessity of purchasing, every year, a quantity of coarse Linen, Blanketings &c for the clothing of my negroes and sundry other articles for various purposes, and Goods of every kind being sold in Alexandria at a high advance, I am desirous of knowing if I could not supply myself from Philadelphia, or some other place, upon lower terms.—I will therefore be much obliged to you if you would inform me of the price of the following articles, as soon as is convenient after you have received this, viz. German & British Oznaburgs of the best quality, suitable for making negroes Shirts & Shifts—a kind of Rolls proper for summer Petticoats & Trousers—Dutch Blanketings—Nails from 6^d to 20^d—and good ditching Spades by the dozen or single one

I will thank you to be so good as to forward the en-

closed letters to their respective addresses by the first safe conveyance &

Am, with great esteem & regard,

Dear Sir,

Y^r. most Obed^t. H^{ble}. Serv^t.

G^o. Washington.

Clement Biddle Esq^r.

Washington to Col. Biddle.

Mount Vernon 11th Ap^l. 1788

Dear Sir,

I have rec^d your favor of the 31st Ult^o. enclosing letter & some seeds from M^r. Peters, and will thank you to send me by the first Vessel bound this way, a good Wheat fan (if there have been any late improvements on the common Sort, which have been found useful, I shall prefer one with such improvements)—and a steel-plated whip-saw of the best kind, seven & a half feet long;—If you are not a competent judge yourself of the quality of the saw, I will thank you to get somebody to chuse one who is, as I wish it to be free from flaws & good in every respect.

You will oblige me by conveying the enclosed letter to M^r. Peters by the first good opportunity.—

I am, Dear Sir,

Y^r. Most Obed^t. H^{ble}. Serv^t.

G^o. Washington.

Clement Biddle Esq^r.

Washington to Col. Biddle.

Mount Vernon 12th May 1788

Dear Sir,

I have received your two letters of the 29 of April & 4th of May.—Since my application to you for the prices of Linen & Blankets I have had an opportunity of supplying myself with both, upon pretty reasonable terms,

but am no less obliged to you for the trouble of your inquiries respecting them.

The Philadelphia Packet has not yet arrived, but if she sailed at the time you mention she may be expected very soon.

I will thank you to inform me whether you have received the Interest due upon my Certificate in your hands, as there is a balance due to you in consequence of those articles last purchased on my Acc^t. which shall be remitted if it is not adjusted by the above Interest.

Will you be so obliging as to let me know in your next what the price of table & single refined Sugar is with you?—

Nails from 8^d to 20^d can be purchased cheaper in Alexandria than in Philadelphia.—20^d can be had in the former place at 10/2 per m allowing 20^{lb} to the m—whereas 20^{lb} at 9^d would amount to 15/ Pennsylvania Currency; but I believe all under 8^d would come cheaper @ 9^d per pound.—

With great esteem

I am, Dear Sir,

Y^r most Obed^t. H^{ble}. Serv^t.

P. S.

G^o. Washington.

Pray forward the Letter to Gen^l Armstrong when a good conveyance offers.—

G. W.

Col^o. Biddle

Washington to Col. Biddle.

Mount Vernon 16th Sept^r. 1788.

Dear Sir,

I have your letters of the 24th. Ult^o. & the 5th. inst. now before me.—The articles sent by Captⁿ. Ellwood arrived safe and agreeable to the invoice.—

If you have not already purchased the Winter Barley I would not wish you to do it, for I think it is very probable that I may be able to get the quantity which

I shall want of the Brewer in Alexandria in exchange for Spring Barley, or if I should be disappointed there, that I can obtain it upon better terms & perhaps of a better quality upon James River than at Philadelphia, as you observe that the crops of it have generally failed, and none has yet been seen that is fit for seed.

I should be glad to have the Herrings & Shad which are in your hands disposed of it can be done without making an unreasonable sacrifice of them, that you may receive the Balance which is due upon your Acc^t. and have money of mine in your hands to procure any articles that I may have occasion for from Philadelphia—should you not be able to dispose of them immediately I will remit you a Bank Note.—

I will thank you to pay Samuel Powell Esq^r. for a chair which he was so good as to procure for me as a pattern.

With great esteem,

I am, Dear Sir,

Y^r most Obed^t. H^{ble}. Serv^t.

G^o. Washington.

P. S. You will oblige me
by forwarding the inclosed letter to M^r. Smith.

Col^o. Clement Biddle.

(To be continued.)